GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5556
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002
ELECTRIFICATION OF VILLAGES WITH SOLAR ENERGY
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Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether solar energy plants are proposed to be set up in the non-electrified remote forest villages in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the solar energy plants are likely to be utilized for providing irrigation facility; and

(c) the number of villages in which these plants are proposed to be set up along with the cost involved therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a),(b)&(c): The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has initiated a programme for electrification of villages in remote and difficult areas in the entire country, including the state of Madhya Pradesh, through installation of suitable renewable energy systems like solar photovoltaic (SPV) lights and power plants, small hydro power plants and biomass gasifier systems.

According to information furnished by Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam (MPUVN), there are 317 villages in the forest areas of Jabalpur division which are proposed to be electrified through non-conventional energy systems. A majority of such villages can be electrified by solar energy through the installation of solar home systems for lighting, TV and fan in individual households and community systems for street lighting, drinking water supply and micro irrigation. Alternately, a stand-alone centralized solar power plant can be set up in the village to provide all these services. The cost of such power plants is in the range of Rs.3.50-4.00 lakhs per kilowatt. The installation of such systems and power plants, as per the scheme, can be supported by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to the extent of 50% of the ex-works cost, subject to certain upper limits.

The Ministry has not received any proposal from the MPUVN for electrification of remote forest villages in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. However, the Ministry got a project report prepared in respect of nine villages in Jabalpur and Katni Districts and referred it to the state government for meeting the balance cost of the project. The state government has expressed inability to provide the required funds.